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PATENT**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

I. Amendments to the Specification

The amendments to the specification correct obvious typographical errors. It would have been obvious that the second example composition should be labeled 0032-18-2 because the example composition was the second composition in Table A. Also, it is evident there is a clerical error in Table A because the compositions for 18-1 and 18-2 do not add up to 100%. One skilled in the art would understand the problem as to why the numbers do not add up to 100% is with the ALBIDUR 2240, since 18-1 and 18-2 have the companion ARADUR compound at just 7.19%, and since composition 18-3 has both ALBIDUR and ARADUR at equal amounts down in the 7% range.

II. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-14 and 18-41 remain pending. Claims 1, 8, and 9 have been amended.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in applicants' specification at, for example, [0053]-[0054].

Claims 8 and 9, which depend from claim 1, were amended for clarity in light of the amendment to claim 1.

III. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection of Claims 1-10 and 12-14

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-14 as being anticipated by Marshall et al. (3,746,686).

Claim 1 is directed to a fluxing curative comprising a reaction product of an imidazole component:

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and a carboxylic acid component having at least 10 carbon atoms per molecule, wherein the carboxylic acid component is selected from the group consisting of a monocarboxylic acid having at least 10 carbon atoms per molecule, a dicarboxylic acid having at least 20 carbon atoms per molecule, and a combination thereof.

Accordingly, the carboxylic acid component comprises a monocarboxylic acid having at least 10 carbon atoms and/or a dicarboxylic acid having at least 20 carbon atoms. Marshall et al. do not disclose a fluxing curative having such a carboxylic acid component.

Marshall et al. disclose an epoxy curative comprising an imidazole component and a carboxylic acid component, wherein:

[t]he acid component of the salt is derived from a polycarboxylic acid or anhydride which contains from 2 to 20 carbon atoms. Col. 4, lines 59-62.

The Marshall et al. reference does not anticipate claim 1's monocarboxylic acid. Monocarboxylic acids have one -COOH moiety. Marshall et al.'s disclosure is limited to polycarboxylic acids. The prefix "poly-" which describes Marshall et al.'s carboxylic acid component refers to carboxylic acids having more than one -COOH moieties, i.e., at least two such moieties. Marshall et al. do not describe monocarboxylic acids in Col. 4, lines 59-62 or anywhere else in their disclosure. For example, the carboxylic acids listed in Col. 4, lines 63-75, Col. 5, lines 1-4, and Col. 5, lines 8-11 are all dicarboxylic acids, i.e., having two -COOH moieties. Marshall et al. also disclose that the polycarboxylic acids can have more than two -COOH moieties at Col. 5, lines 5-7. For example, citric acid has three -COOH moieties.

The Marshall et al. reference also does not anticipate claim 1's dicarboxylic acid having at least 20 carbon atoms.

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Marshall et al.'s "polycarboxylic acid...which contains from 2 to 20 carbon atoms..." may "overlap" or "touch" applicants' claimed range, but much more is required for there to be anticipation. In particular, according to the MPEP:

II. PRIOR ART WHICH TEACHES A RANGE WITHIN, OVERLAPPING, OR TOUCHING THE CLAIMED RANGE ANTICIPATES IF THE PRIOR ART RANGE DISCLOSES THE CLAIMED RANGE "WITH SUFFICIENT SPECIFICITY"

When the prior art discloses a range which touches, overlaps or is within the claimed range, but no specific examples falling within the claimed range are disclosed, a case by case determination must be made as to anticipation. In order to anticipate the claims, the claimed subject matter must be disclosed in the reference with "sufficient specificity to constitute an anticipation under the statute." What constitutes a "sufficient specificity" is fact dependent. ... The question of "sufficient specificity" is similar to that of "clearly envisaging" a species from a generic teaching. See MPEP §2131.03.

The "clearly envisaging" standard is further described in MPEP §2131.02:

When the compound is not specifically named, but instead it is necessary to select portions of teachings within a reference and combine them, e.g., select various substituents from a list of alternatives given for placement at specific sites on a generic chemical formula to arrive at a specific composition, anticipation can only be found if the classes of substituents are sufficiently limited or well delineated.

Accordingly, MPEP §2131.03 applies because the Marshall et al. reference "discloses a range which touches...the claimed range," and Marshall et al. do not disclose any "specific examples falling within the claimed range." None of the polycarboxylic acids listed from Col. 4, line 63 to Col. 5, line 17 have 20 or

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more carbon atoms. The following table is provided for convenience:

Marshall et al. acid	Number of carbons atoms
Oxalic acid	2
Malonic acid	3
Succinic acid	4
Glutaric acid	5
Adipic acid	6
Pimelic acid	7
Suberic acid	8
Azelaic acid	9
Sebacic acid	10
Diglycolic acid	4
Hexahydrophthalic acid	8
Maleic acid	4
Fumaric acid	4
Monochlorosuccinic acid	4
Dichlorosuccinic acid	4
Dichloromaleic acid	4
Citric acid	6
Phthalic acid	8
Isophthalic acid	8
Terephthalic acid	8
Tetrahydrophthalic acid	8
Benzophenone tetracarboxylic acid	17

Since MPEP §2131.03 applies, the standard for anticipation of applicants' claims is "sufficient specificity." A claimed range is described with sufficient specificity when the prior art range is "sufficiently limited or well delineated." In this case, Marshall et al. disclose a broad polycarboxylic acid genus, which is not "sufficiently limited or well delineated" as to anticipate claim 1's dicarboxylic acid having at least 20 carbon atoms. Marshall et al.'s "...polycarboxylic acid...contain from 2 to 20 carbon atoms. They may be aliphatic or aromatic, saturated or unsaturated." Col. 4, lines 59-62. Marshall et al.'s genus is so broad as to be potentially unlimited. For

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example, Marshall et al. do not limit the number of -COOH moieties which may be present and do not limit the aliphatic and aromatic species which may be present in their polycarboxylic acids.

In view of the foregoing, the Marshall et al. reference does not anticipate claim 1, and applicants request withdrawal of the rejection. Moreover, the Marshall et al. reference does not render applicants' claimed range obvious under §103(a) because (1) Marshall et al. do not teach monocarboxylic acids, and (2) Marshall et al. teach away from applicants' dicarboxylic acids having at least 20 carbon atoms because Marshall et al. prefer dicarboxylic acids having "up to 10 carbon atoms." See Col. 4, lines 63-76.

Claims 2-10 and 12-14 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for the same reasons as claim 1 and by virtue of the additional requirements therein.

IV. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection of Claim 11

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claim 11 as being obvious over Marshall et al. (3,746,686).

Claim 11 is dependent from claim 1 and is patentable for the same reasons as claim 1 and by virtue of the additional requirements therein. For example, claim 11 describes two species of *monocarboxylic* acids. As explained above, in connection with claim 1, Marshall et al. do not describe monocarboxylic acids. Accordingly, the reference does not render claim 11 obvious, and applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 18-41.

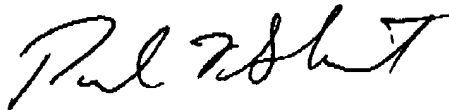
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the two-month extension of time fee in the amount of \$450.00 to Deposit Account No. 19-1345. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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